

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

The Last Meeting of the Board of Aldermen of 1861.

PRESIDENT—GODFREY VALDERRAMA—HIS VIEWS OF THE MATTERS AND THE WAY.

The Board met yesterday afternoon at three o'clock, pursuant to adjournment, President Genet in the chair.

The annual report of the Corporation Counsel, Judge Bronson, was presented, and the usual copies ordered to be printed.

Alderman FRENCH moved that when the Board adjourned, it adjourn one day, which was lost.

A resolution was offered, originating in the Board of Common Councils, awarding \$250 each to Mr. McClellan and the officers of the Board of Common Councils, which was carried 33.

A resolution designating the *Daily Times* a Corporation paper was called up; but it had not had over the requisite time, according to the rule—two days—no action was taken in the matter.

Alderman LORRIS moved a reconsideration of the motion of the Board, which was carried.

Alderman CONNELL moved that the committees be appointed to call upon the mayor and Board of Common Councils, informing them that the Board had adjourned one day.

The President nominated the following gentlemen to wait upon the Mayor—Aldermen Cornell, Layton and Prentiss, and the Board of Common Councils—Adjourned.

Adjourned. Chipp and Hayes.

Alderman DAVY then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously carried:

Resolved, That the Board of Aldermen, upon the close of the present term of service of Henry Geary, Esq., President of the City, and his associates, discharge him, and his associates, with which he has been connected, the efficient and delicate duties of the chair, and upon his abdicating upon the responsible and honorable position of Clerk of the City and County, to which he has been elected by the people, the members of the Board tender him their warmest congratulations, and their sincere and hearty wishes for his health and prosperity.

President Geary then replied as follows:

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN. To declare that I deeply feel, and gratefully accept, the compliment conveyed to me in the passage of this resolution, but further to assure you that my great experience, by means of the manifestation of your good will and cordial sympathy, has enabled me to discharge my duty with the greatest success, and that I am led to believe that the manner in which I have discharged the delicate, responsible and onerous duties incident to the position of presiding officer of the Board of Aldermen, has been satisfactory to all concerned, so far as my power and influence extends your entire approbation.

The following is a comparative statement of the exports, exclusive of specie, from New York to foreign ports for the week ending December 31, and since January 1:

1860. 1861. 1861.

For the week. \$1,131,182. 2,234,901. 2,019,992.

Previously reported \$6,700,612. 100,905,666. 135,944,179.

Since Jan. 1... \$603,783. 103,269,587. 137,965,369.

The last week of the year does not close with as heavy an export return as some of its predecessors.

The aggregate for the year, however, amounts to the unprecedented sum of \$137,965,368—say \$34,765,000 more than that of 1860, and rather more than double that of 1859, which only slightly fell below the average. Assuming our imports to have amounted to \$125,000,000, our general merchandise account shows a balance in our favor of nearly \$13,000,000 to offset the difference between our exports and our imports of cotton.

This is the first instance on record during which the balance has been in our favor, and it may be regarded as especially remarkable, in view of the fact that for one-half the year there have been no exports of cotton. The cause of this anomaly is, of course, the short harvests abroad and the surplus of feed here. It must be remembered that these are accidental occurrences, and may not occur again. Congress should legislate, in view of a possible decline in our shipments of grain after midwinter.

Money seems to be abundant enough at seven per cent on call. The brokers are doing something in paper at 7 & 8 per cent for the highest grades. The banks are doing no business as yet.

Foreign exchange continues paralyzed. The leading bankers ask 112 & 113, and we hear of a few transactions at the lower figure; but most of the drawers and importers appear to be waiting for further developments. American credit is offered at one and a half premium, and is bought by the bullion brokers at one; but very little business is being done in it. It will be easy to bring the gold to light again when it is needed, now that the banks have got out of the false position they occupied.

The stock market was active this morning, with an material variation in prices from the quotations of last evening. The leading speculative stocks of the day, Pacific Mail, Central, &c., were steady; Erie, Erie preferred and Rock Island were a fraction higher, while Missouri, Michigan Southern, Galena and Toledo were all 14 & 15 lower.

A parallel in modern legislation. While we should gratefully acknowledge the manifold blessings vouchsafed to us in the preservation of the public health, the safety of our cities, such as Washington, Boston, New York, and the like, or the many evils which are sometimes visited upon communities, to awaken them to a realization of their responsibility upon the money and honor of the nation. Who can doubt the respect is apparent, and the Board has reason for congratulation from the fact, that while every subject presented for its consideration, no matter how unimportant, has received a fair and impartial investigation, and been acted upon, and the unbiased judgment of the Board, the President's desk being entirely cleared of all papers requiring the action of the Board, not the slightest complaint has been made, or even given, to any of his colleagues, legislative or otherwise, a fact I consider a parallel in modern legislation.

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